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MONTANA CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

1971-1972

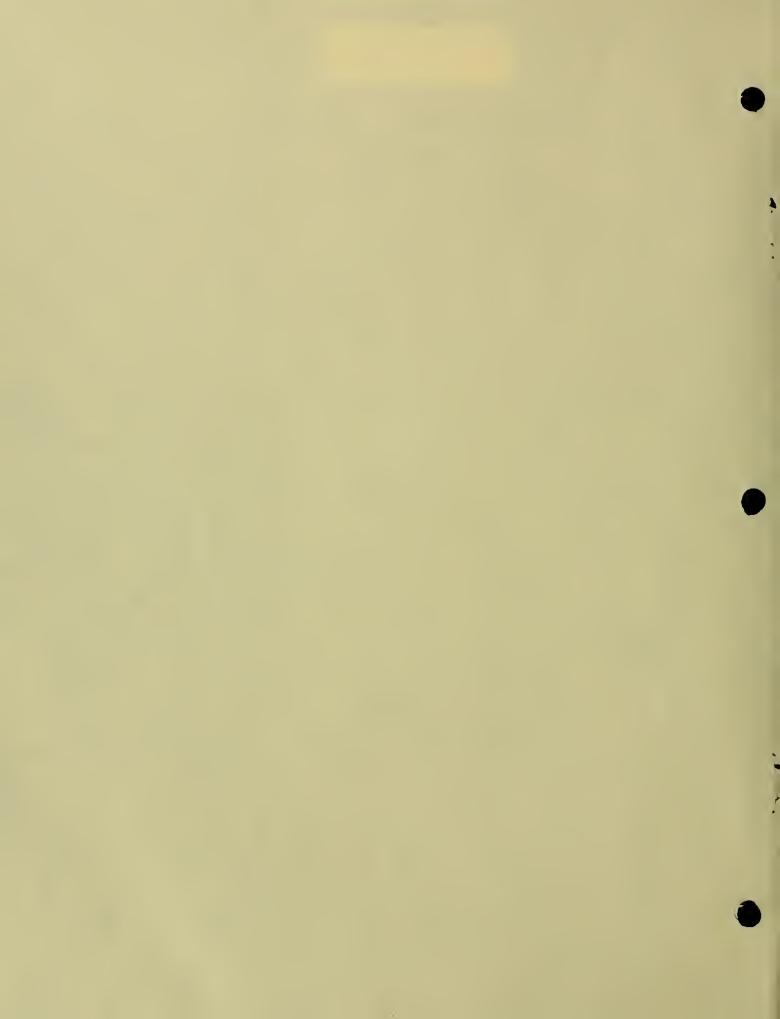
REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON STYLE, DRAFTING, TRANSITION AND SUBMISSION

ON

JUDICIARY

Date Reported: March 9, 1972

chili Chairman Vice Chairman



TO: Montana Constitutional Convention SUBJECT: JUDICIARY

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The Committee on Style, Drafting, Transition and Submission transmits revisions of the above Article for consideration of the Convention.

Immediately following this letter you will find the above Article as revised by the Committee. Following that is the Article indicating (by underlining) words we have added and (by crossing out) words we have deleted from the Article as approved. Finally, there is an explanation of the changes we have made.

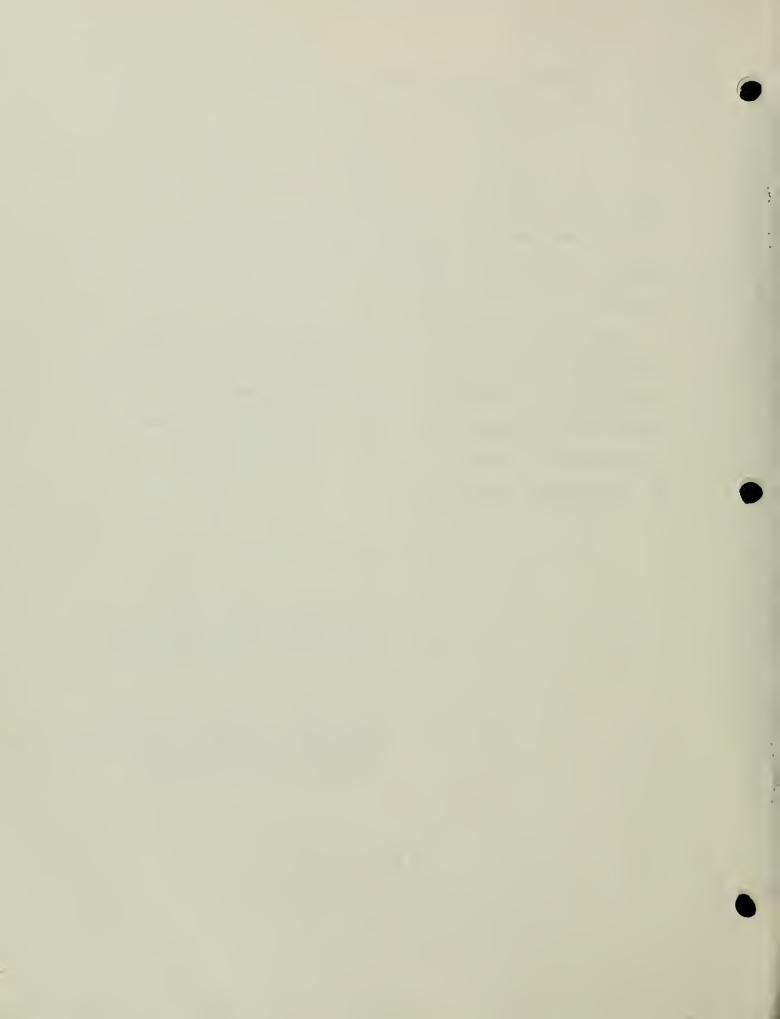
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Sincerely,

John M. Schiltz, Chairman of the Committee on Style, Drafting, Transition and Submission

land.

William A. Burkhardt, Vice Chairman of the Committee on Style, Drafting, Transition and Submission



BE IT PROPOSED BY THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE:

That there be a new Article on the Judiciary to read 3 as follows:

ARTICLE

THE JUDICIARY

7 Section 1. JUDICIAL POWER. The judicial power of the 8 state is vested in one supreme court, district courts, 9 1 justice courts, and such other courts as may be providea 10 by law.

11 Section 2. SUPREME COURT JURISDICTION. (1) The supreme court has appellate jurisdiction and may issue, 12 13 hear, and determine writs appropriate thereto. It has 14 original jurisdiction to issue, hear, and determine writs 15 of habeas corpus.

16 It has general supervisory control over all other (2) 17 courts.

18 (3) It may make rules governing appellate procedure, 19 practice and procedure for all other courts, admission to 20 the bar and the conduct of its members. Rules of procedure 21 shall be subject to disapproval by the legislature in either 22 of the two sessions following promulgation.

23 (4) Supreme court process shall extend to all parts of 24 the state.

25 Section 3. SUPREME COURT ORGANIZATION. (1) The supreme 26 court consists of one chief justice and four justices, but the 27 legislature may increase the number of justices from four to 28 six. A majority shall join in and pronounce decisions, which 29 must be in writing.

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(2) A district judge shall be substituted for the chief

justice or a justice in the event of disqualification or
disability, and the opinion of the district judge sitting
with the supreme court shall have the same effect as an
opinion of a justice.

5 Section 4. DISTRICT COURT JURISDICTION. (1) The 6 district court has original jurisdiction in all criminal 7 cases amounting to felony and all civil matters and cases 8 at law and in equity. It may issue all writs appropriate 9 to its jurisdiction. It shall have the power of natural-10 ization and such additional jurisdiction as may be dele-11 gated by the laws of the United States or the state of 12 Montana. Its process shall extend to all parts of the 13 state.

14 (2) The district court shall hear appeals from inferior
15 courts as trials anew unless otherwise provided by law. The
16 legislature may provide for direct review by the district
17 court of decisions of administrative agencies.

18 (3) Other courts may have jurisdiction of criminal 19 cases not amounting to felony and such jurisdiction con-20 current with that of the district court as may be provided 21 by law.

22 Section 5. JUSTICES OF THE PEACE. (1) There shall be 23 elected in each county for a term of four years at least one 24 justice of the peace with qualifications, training, and 25 monthly compensation provided by law. There shall be pro-26 vided such facilities that they may perform their duties in 27 dignified surroundings.

(2) Justice courts shall have such original jurisdiction as may be provided by law. They shall not have trial jurisdiction in any criminal case designated a felony except

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2 (3) The legislature may provide for additional justices3 of the peace in each county.

Section 6. JUDICIAL DISTRICTS. (1) The legislature
shall divide the state into judicial districts and provide
for the number of judges in each district. Each district shall
be formed of compact territory and be bounded by county lines.

8 (2) The legislature may change the number and boundaries 9 of judicial districts and the number of judges in each dis-10 trict, but no change in boundaries or the number of districts 11 or judges therein shall work a removal of any judge from 12 office during the term for which he was elected or appointed.

(3) The chief justice may upon request of the district
judge, assign district judges and other judges for temporary
service from one district to another, and from one county to
another.

Section 7. TERMS AND PAY. (1) All justices and judges
shall be paid as provided by law, but salaries shall not be
diminished during terms of office.

20 (2) Terms of office shall be eight years for supreme 21 court justices, six years for district court judges, and as 22 provided by law for other judges.

23 Section 8. SELECTION. (1) The governor shall nominate 24 a replacement from nominees selected in the manner provided 25 by law for any vacancy in the office of supreme court justice 26 or district court judge. If the governor fails to nominate 27 within thirty days after receipt of nominees, the chief 28 justice or acting chief justice shall make the nomination. 29 Each nomination shall be confirmed by the senate, but a 30 nomination made while the senate is not in session shall be

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effective as an appointment until the end of the next
 session. If the nomination is not confirmed, the office
 shall be vacant and another selection and nomination shall
 be made.

5 If, at the first election after senate confirma-(2)6 tion, and at the election before each succeeding term of 7 office, any candidate other than the incumbent justice or 8 district judge files for election to that office, the name 9 of the incumbent shall be placed on the ballot. If there 10 is no contest for the office, the name of the incumbent shall 11 nevertheless be placed on the general election ballot to allow voters of the state or district to approve or reject 12 13 nim. If an incumbent is rejected, another selection and 14 . nomination shall be made.

(3) If an incumbent requests that his name not be
placed on the ballot, there shall be an election for the
office.

18 Section 9. QUALIFICATIONS (1) A citizen of the 19 United States who has resided in the state two years 20 5 immediately before taking office is eligible to the office 21 of supreme court justice or district court judge if admitted 22 to the practice of law in Montana for at least five years prior 23 to the date of appointment or election. Qualifications and 24 methods of selection of judges of other courts shall be 25 provided by law.

26 (2) No supreme court justice or district court judge
27 shall solicit or receive compensation in any form whatever on
28 account of his office, except salary and actual necessary
29 travel expense.

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(3) Except as otherwise provided in this constitution,

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no supreme court justice or district court judge shall 上世 practice law during his term of office, engage in any other 2 1 employment for which salary or fee is paid, or hold office in a political party.

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(4) Supreme court justices shall reside within the 5 state. Every other judge shall reside during his term of 6 office in the district, county, township, precinct, city 7 or town in which he is elected or appointed. 8

Section 10. FORFEITURE OF JUDICIAL POSITION. Any 9 holder of a judicial position forfeits that position by 10 either filing for an elective public office other than a 11 judicial position or absenting himself from the state for 12 more than 60 consecutive days. 13

Section 11. REMOVAL AND DISCIPLINE. (1) The legis-14 lature shall create a judicial standards commission con-15 sisting of five persons and provide for the appointment 16 thereto of two district judges, one attorney, and two 17 citizens who are neither judges nor attorneys. 18

(2) The commission shall investigate complaints, 19 make rules implementing this section, and keep its proceed-20 ings confidential. It may subpoena witnesses and documents. 21

(3) Upon recommendation of the commission, the supreme 22 23 court may:

(a) Retire any justice or judge for disability that 24 seriously interferes with the performance of his duties and 25 is or may become permanent; or 26

(b) Censure, suspend, or remove any justice or judge 27 for willful misconduct in office, willful and persistent 28 failure to perform his duties, or habitual intemperance. 29 30 Section 12. EXEMPTION LAWS. The legislature shall

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1	enact liberal homestead and exemption laws.	
2	Section 13. PERPETUITIES. No perpetuities shall be	
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5	ARTICLE	
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9	justice courts, and such other courts as may be provided	
10	by law.	
11	Section 2. SUPREME COURT POWERS JURISDICTION. (1) The	
12	supreme court has appellate jurisdiction; ineluding-juris-	
13	diction and may to issue, hear, and determine writs appro-	
14	priate thereto. to-its-appellate-jurisdiction;-and It has	
15	original jurisdiction to issue, hear, and determine writs of	
16	habeas corpus.	
17	(2) It has general supervisory control over all other	
18	courts.	
19	(3) It may make rules governing appellate procedure,	
20	rules-of practice and procedure for all other courts, and	
21	rules-of admission to the bar and the conduct of its members.	
22	Rules of procedure shall be subject to approval-or disapproval	
23	by the legislature in either of the two sessions following	
24	their promulgation.	
25	(4) Supreme court process shall extend to all parts of	
26	the state.	
27	Section 3. SUPREME COURT ORGANIZATION. (1) The supreme	
28	court shall consists of one chief justice and four justices,	
29	but the legislature may increase the number of justices from	
30	four to six. aA majority of-whom-will-be-necessary-to shall	
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join in and pronounce the decisions, which must be in writing and-jeined-in-by the-majority. The-legislative-assembly-may increase-the-number-of-justices-from-five-to-seven.

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(2) A district judges shall be substituted for the chief justice or the <u>a</u> justices in the event of disqualification or disability, in-any-cause, and the opinion of the district judge sitting with the supreme court shall have the same effect as an opinion of a justice of-the supreme-court.

10 Section 4. DISTRICT COURT JURISDICTION. (1) The 11 district court has original jurisdiction in all criminal cases amounting to felony and all civil matters and cases 12 13 at law and in equity. It may issue all writs appropriate to its jurisdiction. It shall have the power of natural-14 ization and such additional jurisdiction as may be dele-15 16 gated by the laws of the United States or the state of 17 Montana. Its process shall extend to all parts of the 18 state.

19 (2) The district court shall hear appeals from inferior
20 courts as trials anew, unless otherwise provided by law. (3)
21 The legislature may provide for direct review by the district
22 court of decisions of administrative agencies, .

(3) Other courts may have for jurisdiction of criminal
cases not amounting to felony in-other-courts, and for-concurrent such jurisdiction concurrent with other courts that
of the district court as may be provided by law.

Appeals-from-inferior-courts-must-be-tried-anew-in
 the-district-court--The-supreme-court-and-district-court
 process-shall-extend-to-all-parts-of-the-state.
 Soction 10.5 JUSTICES OF THE REACE-ELECTION-COURT

Section 10 5. JUSTICES OF THE PEACE--ELECTION--QUALI-

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FIGATIONS--COMPENSATION--JURISDICTION. (1) There shall be elected in each county for a term of four years at least one justice of the peace with qualifications, training, and monthly compensation as provided by law, who-shall-held effice-for-the-term-of-four-years. There shall be provided such facilities for-such that they justices-so-that may perform their duties may-be-performed in dignified surroundings.

8 (2) Justice courts shall have such original jurisdiction 9 within-their-respective-counties as may be prescribed provided 10 by law. They shall not have trial jurisdiction in any 11 criminal case designated a felony, except as examining courts.

12 (3) The legislature may provide for additional justices
 13 of the peace in each county or-other-types-of-courts-below
 14 the-district-court-level-as-is-deemed-necessary.

15 Section 5 6. JUDICIAL DISTRICTS. (1) The legislative
16 assembly legislature shall divide the state into judicial
17 districts and provide for the number of judges in each
18 district. Each district shall be formed of compact territory
19 and be bounded by county lines.

(2) The-legislative-assembly-shall-have-the-power-to 20 The legislature may change the number and boundaries of 21 judicial districts and-their-boundaries and the number of 22 23 judges in each district; however;-each-district-shall-be 24 formed-of-compact-territory-and-be-bounded-by-county-lines; but no changes in boundaries or the number of districts or 25 26 judges therein, shall work a removal of any judge from office during the term for which he has-been was elected 27 28 or appointed.

29 (3) The chief justice may, upon request of the district judge,
 30 assign the district judges and other judges for temporary service

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from one district to another, and from one county to another.

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Section 6 7. TERMS AND PAY OF-JUDGES. (1) All justices of-the-supreme-court,-district-court-judges and other judges shall be paid as provided by law, but their-salary <u>salaries</u> shall not be diminished during their terms of office.

(2) Terms of office for-supreme-court-justices shall be eight years. for supreme court justices, six years

Terms-of-office for district court judges, shall-be-six years. and as provided by law

Terms-of-office for other judges shall-be-provided-by law.

13 Section 7 8. SELECTION OF-JUDGES. (1) The governor 14 shall nominate a replacement from nominees selected in the 15 manner provided by law In-all-vaeaneies for any vacancy 16 in the offices of supreme court justices and or district court 17 judges7. the-governor-of-the-state-shall-nominate-a-supreme 18 court-or-district-court-judge-from-nominees-selected-in-the 19 manner-provided-by-law. If the governor fails to nominate 20 within thirty days after receipt of the-names-of-the nominees, 21 the chief justice or acting chief justice shall make the 22 nomination. Each nomination shall be confirmed by the senate, 23 but a nomination made while the senate is not assembled in 24 session shall be effective as an appointment until the end of 25 the next session of-the-senate. If the nomination is not confirmed, 26 by-the-senate the office shall be vacant and another selection 27 and nomination shall be made.

28 (2) Before-the-elose-of-filings-for-nominations-in-the 29 first-primary-election-after-senate-confirmation,-and-at 30 the-primary-election-prior-to-each-succeeding-term-of-office,

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the-name-of-the-incumbent-judge-shall-be-placed-on-a-con-1 tested-ballot-if-other-candidates-have-filed-for-election 2 to-that-office. If, at the first election after senate 3 confirmation, and at the election before each succeeding 4 term of office, any candidate other than the incumbent 5 justice or district judge files for election to that office, 6 7 the name of the incumbent shall be placed on the ballot. If 8 there is no primary-election contest for the office, the name 9 of the incumbent judge shall nevertheless be placed on a 10 ballot-in the general election ballot to allowing voters of 11 the state or district the-choice-of-his-approval-or-rejection 12 to approve or reject him. In-the-event-of-rejection-of If 13 an judge incumbent is rejected, another selection and nomina-14 tion shall be made in-like-manner.

(3) If an incumbent judge-dees-net-run requests that his
 name not be placed on the ballot, there shall be an contested
 election for the office.

18 Section 8 9. QUALIFICATIONS AND-LIMITATIONS-OF-JUDGES. 19 (1) No-person-shall-be A citizen of the United States 20 who has resided in the state two years immediately 21 before taking office is eligible to the offices of supreme 22 court justice of-the-supreme-court or district court judge 23 of-the-district-court-unless-he-or-she-shall-have-been if 24 admitted to the practice of law in Montana for at least five 25 years prior to the date of appointment or election, is-a 26 eitizen-of-the-United-States,-and-has-resided-in-the-state 27 of-Montana-two-years-immediately-before-taking-office-28 Qualifications and methods of selection of judges of other 29 courts shall be provided by law.

(2) No supreme court justice or district court judge

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shall solicit or receive any compensation in any form whatever on account of his office, in-any-form-whatever, except salary and actual necessary travel expense as-provided-by iaw.

(3) Except as otherwise provided in this constitution, no supreme court justice or district court judge shall practice law during his term of office, engage in any other employment for which salary or fee is paid, or hold office in a political party.

Filing-for-another-elective-public-office-results-in-forfeiture-of-judicial-position-but-a-judge-may-file-for-another judicial-position-without-forfeiture-of-the-judicial-position-he-holds-

(4) All-judges,-except Supreme court justices of the-supreme-court,-who shall reside within the state,. Every other judge shall respectively reside during their his term of office in the district, county, township, precinct, city or town in which they-may-be he is elected or appointed.

Any-judicial-officer-who-may-absent-himself-from-the state-for-more-than-60-consecutive-days-shall-be-deemed-to have-forfeited-his-office.

Section 10. FORFEITURE OF JUDICIAL POSITION. Any holder of a judicial position forfeits that position by either filing for an elective public office other than a judicial position or absenting himself from the state for more than 60 consecutive days.

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citizens who is are neither a judges nor an attorneys.

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(2) The-commission-shall-investigate-complaints, 2 subpeena-witnesses-and-decuments;-and-makes-rules-implementing-this-section-and-providing-for-confidentiality-of proceedings.

The commission shall investigate complaints, make rules 7 implementing this section, and keep its proceedings confiden-8 tial. It may subpoena witnesses and documents.

9 (3) Upon recommendation of the commission, the supreme 10 court may:

11 (a) Retire any justice or judge for disability that 12 seriously interferes with the performance of his duties and 13 is or may become permanent; or

14 (b) Censure, suspend, or remove any justice or judge 15 for willful misconduct in office, willful and persistent 16 failure to perform his duties, or habitual intemperance.

17 Section 11 12. EXEMPTION LAWS. The legislative-assembly 18 legislature shall enact liberal homestead and exemption laws.

19 Section 12 13. PERPETUITIES. No perpetuities shall be 20 allowed, except for charitable purposes.

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REPORT NO. V - JUDICIARY COMMENTS ON STYLE, FORM, AND GRAMMAR

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<u>Section 1</u>. The cardinal number "one" was substituted
for the indefinite article "a" to provide harmony with
the similar provision in the United States Constitution.
The addition of what is now section 5 required addition of
"justice courts."

9 Section 2. Subsections were added and language deleted
10 to aid clarity without altering substance. Subsection (3):
11 Deleting "approval or" expresses the intent of floor debate.
12 Subsection (4) was moved from section 4.

13 Section 3. (1) Numbers in the first sentence were
14 changed to express intent. Reorganization and deletion do
15 not alter substance.

16 Section 4. The first clause of subsection (3) was 17 moved to become the second sentence of subsection (2). The 18 first sentence of the last paragraph, which was not part of 19 the Committee of the Whole amendment, conflicts with sub-20 section (2), so it was deleted. The reference to process 21 in the second sentence was moved.

22 Section 5. Was added in Committee of the Whole as 23 section 10. The language deleted at the end repeats part 24 of section 1. The other changes in language do not alter 25 substance.

26 <u>Section 6</u>. The addition of the words "of the district
27 judge" to subsection (3) clarifies the source of the request.
28 Changes in language and order do not alter substance.

29 Section 7. Deletion and reorganizing achieve brevity
 30 and clarity without altering substance. The phrase "other

1 judges" in subsection (2) is understood by the Committee
2 to include, among others, "magistrates" and "justices of
3 the peace."

Section 8. Subsection (2) was redrafted to clarify 4 5 meaning. In addition, references to "primary election" 6 were deleted to avoid perpetuating the primary mode of 7 selection in the constitution. The underlined addition to 8 subsection (3) was substituted for "does not run" to recon-9 cile its provisions with subsection (2). Removing the ad-10 jective "contested" avoids a requirement that more than 11 one candidate file.

12 Section 9. The phrase "as provided by law" was deleted 13 from subsection (2) because it contains a prohibition which 14 is not to be affected by any law but the constitution. Other 15 extensive language and order changes do not alter substance. 16 Two sentences concerning forfeiture were combined in the 17 next new section 10.

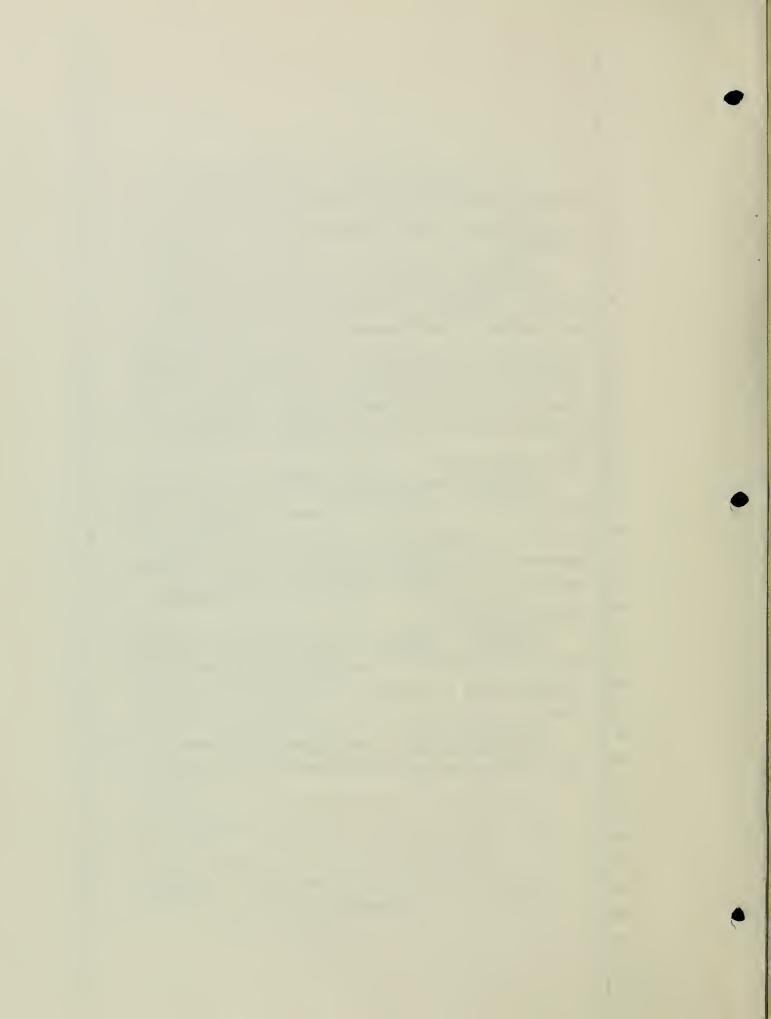
18 Section 11. Subsection (2) was redrafted to differen-19 tiate the requirements laid upon the commission and its dis-20 cretionary power to subpoena. Other changes in the section 21 clarify.

Sections 12 and 13. These sections will be moved to other Articles when the entire constitution is proposed.

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STATE DOCUMENTS

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ORDER OF BUSINESS NO. 5 - FINAL CONSIDERATION STYLE AND DRAFTING - JUDICIARY - NO. V

ARTICLE

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19 practice and procedure for all other courts, admission to
20 the bar and the conduct of its members. Rules of procedure
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enact liberal homestead and exemption laws.

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2 Section 13. PERPETUITIES. No perpetuities shall be 3 allowed except for charitable purposes.

4 Section 14. CAMPAIGN EXPENSES. The legislative 5 legislature assembly shall appropriate funds for the 6 contested general election campaign expenses of candidates 7 for the offices of chief justice and justices of the 8 supreme court and shall enact laws regulating the amount, 9 expenditure, and disposition thereof. No candidate for 10 chief justice or justice of the supreme court, ner or any 11 person or persons acting on his or-her behalf, shall 12 expend money in a campaign for the office in excess of 13 of the amount appropriated and authorized by the 14 legislative-assembly legislature. 15 16

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